



The Totem Poll

Harford County's Election Poll Workers Newsletter

Building a better election process one election judge at a time

Volume 7 Issue 3

Fall/Winter, 2013

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Special Points of Interest:

Early Voting Dates (Primary)

Thursday June 12 to Thursday
June 19 from 10am-8pm

Election Day (Primary)

Tuesday June 24, 2014 from
7am-8pm

Early Voting Sites:

Site 1: McFaul Activity Center

Site 2: Edgewood Library

Site 3: The Heat Center

Site 4: Jarrettsville Library

Important Date: June 3, 2014 is the last day to register to vote or change/update your information for the Gubernatorial Primary Election.

For more info on the 2014 Gubernatorial, please visit www.harfordvotes.info

Message From Election Management

The 2014 Gubernatorial Election is rapidly approaching for us here at the Election Office. We've added the Edgewood Library, the University Center (formerly the HEAT Center) and the Jarrettsville Library to the McFaul Center giving us four early voting sites that are now open eight days instead of six. Redistricting has us up to 88 Precincts and 15 combos. Christ Church has moved to Victorious Faith Fellowship and St. Georges Parish is now Aberdeen American Legion. Now this will be a surprise, the software in the pollbooks has several updates and some new features for you. Your elected officials would like you to make sure our voters deliver their vote in 30 minutes or less. No free pizza though if you time out. However, do not worry, this will, well might, well could possibly be the last time you have to use the touch screens.

We have been reviewing everything. Jess and Maggie visited every polling location to assess the accessibility, signage and drafted the layouts. You will review them during training. Training has been revised but I'll not steal Maggie's thunder, cause we all know Sister Maggie Catherine doesn't tolerate, yeah that's it just tolerate. We have reviewed the end of the night procedures and believe we have been able to streamline the process and make closing a little easier. We have a new inventory program and new project management software to manage the election process. Well, Shawn is hounding us about this message, so we will see you all when Sister Maggie Catherine tells us that class has resumed. We do not want to be late.

Kevin (not Chip) & Dale



Why Check Your Voter Status?

The staff at the election office is often approached and asked why we stress the importance of checking your voter status. The answer is simple - to avoid any and all possible complications on Election Day. If you've been to some of the local libraries, grocery stores, MVA, etc. you may have noticed our flyers posted on their bulletin boards (see below). Many voters who have moved or changed their name, often

don't think to update their records with our office, especially in a non-election year. Because of this, when they arrive at the polls, the process may take a lot longer than they initially anticipated. So please allow us to explain, in detail, the importance of each question posed on our flyer.

Are you a registered voter? Simple question, but if you are not registered and wish to vote, please do so asap. You cannot vote if you are not registered.

Has your address changed? If you're a voter who moved and didn't update your information with our office, a couple of things may happen. One, the mail we send may be returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. When this happens at least 2 times you will be listed as "Inactive" on the voter roles. This may cause you to have to vote a paper Provisional ballot. Two, you may not be in the correct precinct and therefore may not receive the correct ballot. And you may have to vote a paper Provisional Ballot. If you vote the wrong ballot, it may not be counted.

Has your name changed? If you changed your name, whether it is through marriage or any other circumstance, you may still vote on a touchscreen unit; however, you'll also need to fill out a Voter Update Form so that we can update your voter record.

Do you wish to change your party affiliation? This question pertains to a Primary Election. Democratic voters can only vote a Democratic ballot; Republican voters can only vote a Republican ballot. Any other party affiliation can not vote in a Primary, unless the school board is on the ballot— which will be the case for the 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

If you wish to update or change your voter information, you can: 1. visit the following website <https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/VoterSearch>; or 2. Click the "Check Your Voter Status" link on our website; 3. Update your information on the back of your voter registration card and mail it to our office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 410-638-3565 for further information and other ways to update or change your voter status.



Neighbor to the North



Debbie Towery, the new Election Director for the Cecil County Board of Elections, was introduced on Nov. 13, 2013

Harford County would like to give a warm welcome to Cecil County Board of Election's newest member, Debbie Towery. On November 13, Ms. Towery was officially announced as Cecil County's Election Director, replacing longtime Director Evelyn Potter who retired this summer.

"She's (Towery) got the right stuff for the job," said Jack Beaston, chairman of the Cecil County Election Board. "We have a lot of confidence in her."

Towery, a resident of Cecil Co. for the last 26 years, earned her master's degree in organizational leadership from Wilmington University in 2008. She spent eight years working in several small law firms in Elkton and the state's attorney's office; and another eight years at W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., where she did marketing, communication and project management,

skills she can certainly utilize in her new job.

"I've met with state election officials in Annapolis and with other election directors around the state during the last two weeks to help me learn more about the job," Towery said.

A county election director supervises staff and carries out election laws as set forth by the State of Maryland and as directed by the State Board of Elections. The position ensures that every citizen has access to voter registration and election polling places. They must retain accurate records and promote fair and equitable elections.

"I feel a bit like I've come full circle," said Towery of her return to working with county and state employees once again.



A Letter to the Judges

As I am writing this, I am watching the snow fall at a steady pace and it's beautiful. Maybe we will have a white Christmas this year.

Since we sent the availability letters to you, a lot has happened. Hold on to your stockings and I will fill you in. We now know who can and can't work (whose been naughty and whose been nice, oops, that's the other list sorry), who is available for early voting this time around, and when each of you is available for training. While we appreciate all the interest so many of you had in working early voting, we could not accommodate everyone who volunteered.

This time around, we are conducting training by precinct. For example, if you work at precinct 1-01- Magnolia Elementary School, you will train with the judges you will be working with on Election Day. Training dates are being scheduled by 'majority

rule.' If you have a scheduling conflict with your date and time for your precinct training, we will do our best to accommodate another time for you. However, please be advised that this will be the exception, not the rule. Training classes are 3 hours as mandated by the State Board of Elections.

We will again be using Eventbrite to schedule training classes, so keep an eye on your email for the instructions that will guide you through the sign-up process. Instructions are easy to follow, but if you have any problems please do not hesitate to call us for assistance: Maggie at 410-809-6011, Lisa at 410-809-6007, or Cliff 410-809-6005. You should receive something by the end of the year.

Please don't procrastinate. To paraphrase James Thurber, "He (or she) who hesitates is lost." This is very important to us and to you. While we love you all dearly, we do not have the time

or resources to track you down and would rather not have to dip into our alternate judge pool to fill your position at the polling place on Election Day.

Training for the June 24, 2014 Gubernatorial Election will begin in February 2014.

If you know of anyone who is interested in working as an Election Judge please have them go to our website at www.harfordvotes.info and click on "How to become an Election Judge". The application can either be mailed to Maggie Mundle, 133 Industry Lane, Forest Hill, Maryland 21050, Faxed to 410-638-3310 or E-mailed to cmundle@harfordcountymd.gov.

Hope everyone gets what they want for Christmas and have a wonderful New Year.

- Maggie Mundle, Election Judge Coordinator

"VOTE" MEAL Cookies Recipe

Ingredients:

¾ cup sugar	¾ cup flour
¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar	½ tsp. baking soda
½ cup butter (softened)	½ tsp. cinnamon (or nutmeg)
½ tsp. vanilla	¼ tsp. salt
1 egg	1 ½ cups quick-cooking oats

Heat oven to 375. Spray cookie sheets with Pam. In a large bowl, combine sugar, brown sugar and butter; beat until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and egg and blend well. Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; mix well. Stir in the oats.

Drop dough by rounded teaspoons 2 inches apart. Bake at 375 for 7 to 10 minutes or til golden brown. Cool a minute and then remove from cookie sheets.

Now for the VOTE part – for a Chocolate "V" place chocolate chips in a V shape on the top of cookies when they are almost cool. You can also use raisins, nuts, icing, m & m's to make the V shape as well. And if you are really industrious, measure out a little more than a rounded tsp. full of dough, roll it in your hands and make a "V" with the dough – decorate as you wish. It's all fun.

Enjoy



New voting system for 2016?

It is no secret that for the 2014 Gubernatorial Election, Maryland will again be using the touch screen (TS) voting units. The voting system that will be used beyond that, however, is still unclear. What is clear is that some sort of paper system will be in place for 2016. The search is currently on for new machines to replace TS units. The report is that the state is moving toward a paper trail.

The General Assembly set 2016 as the goal for instituting a paper ballot system. The switch to paper ballots was delayed until now be-

cause of limited funding. Whatever voting system is implemented, the next step for us will be a public outreach campaign since voters in Maryland have been using an automated voting system for roughly ten years now.

Rest assured that we will do our best to educate the public so their comfort and confidence level is high.

One part of the current system that will not be replaced with paper is the Electronic pollbooks. This system certainly appears to be in place for 2016. However, there

will be some new software changes on the horizon for the 2014 Gubernatorial. Improvements have been made on the pollbooks to ensure easier usage for the Check-In Judges. Some of the changes include:

- A date and time verification before opening
- Automatic printing of the "0" report when opening the polls
- When checking in the first voter, each check-in judge will be required to enter their name, which will be printed on the Voter Authority Card.



These are just a few of the software changes to the pollbooks. Of course, these updates will be explained in further detail when judges come in for training. But these software changes will help make life easier for both Election judges and our office staff.

Here comes the Judge (Trainer)!

For Cindy Allred, her exceptional work as an Election Judge for Harford County over the years has not gone unnoticed. In addition to her normal duties as a Chief Judge, Cindy will now assist with Election Judge training and will also manage an Early Voting site for the upcoming 2014 Gubernatorial.

Cindy comes in as a second generation Election Judge. Her mother worked as an election judge for years, passing the baton to Cindy who has carried it now for nearly 15 years.

Harford County was not Cindy's first stint as an Election Judge. She has done tours through Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County prior to arriving in Harford. From the voting booth curtains in the Shoup Machines, to the paper system and Eagle machines, to our current automated touch screen system, Cindy was there doing her part ensuring that the democratic process is carried out and that voters are enfranchised.

When she's not an Election Judge, Cindy's official job is working for Industrial Fleet Management (IFM) in Forest Hill. Conveniently, her office building is located directly across from the Election office. IFM is a consulting firm that provides independent cost savings advice to transportation industries that lease vehicles such as tractors, trucks, trailers, etc.; a job she's enjoyed for three years now.

Cindy enjoys her time as an Election Judge and looks forward to the added responsibilities as a trainer and Early Voting site manager. She credits her ascension up the election ranks to the training she's received here. But most of the credit should be attributed to Cindy and her hard work. Because while she is looking forward to working with us, we are just as excited to having her join our team.



Cindy Allred will be working double duty as a Chief Judge and Election Judge trainer for the 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

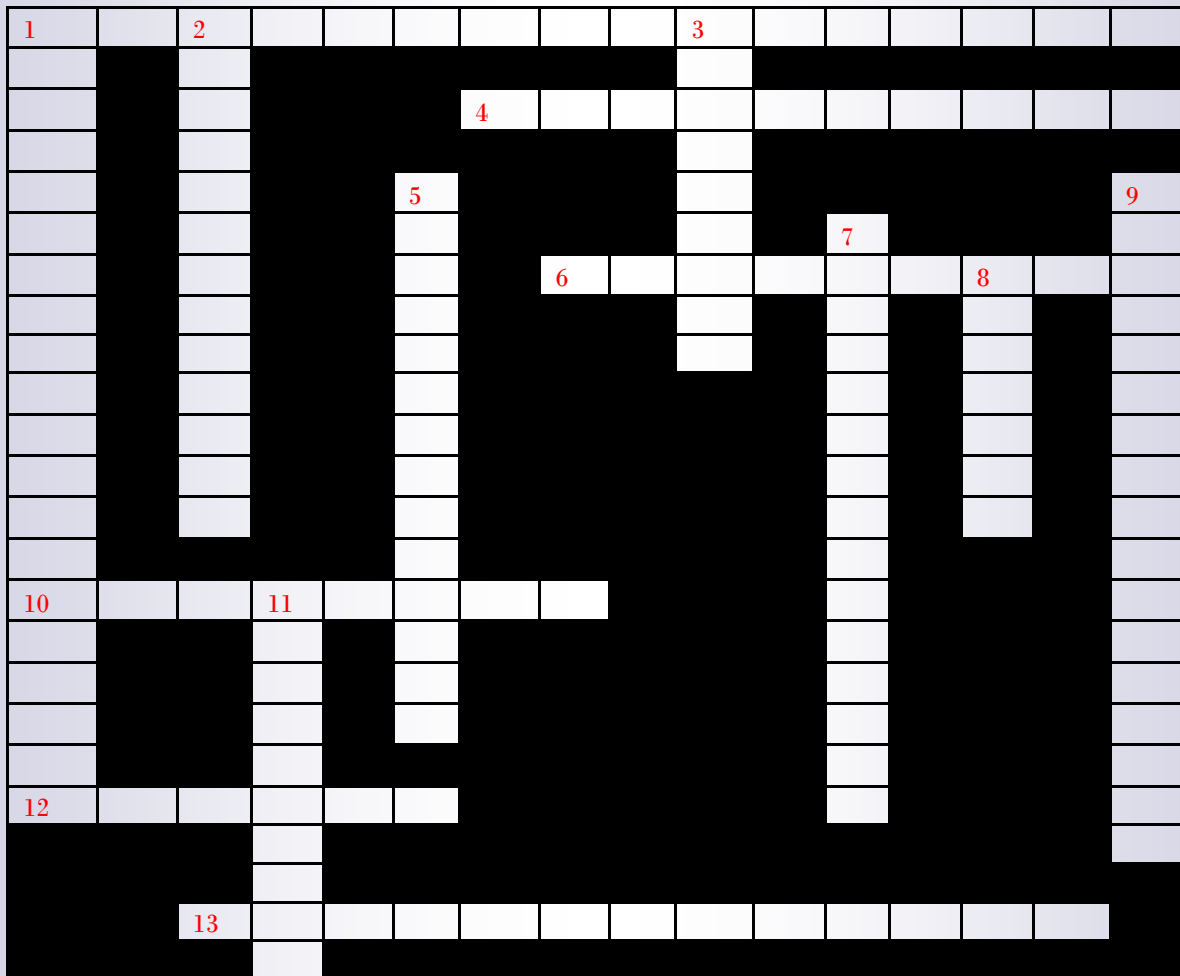


Harford County Board of Elections





Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. First African American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court
4. NFL Hall of Famer and three time NFL MVP (1959, 1964 and 1967)
6. Largest Maryland City
10. MLB Hall of Famer and 12 time league homerun champion
12. Two time Super Bowl Championship team
13. Largest man made in-land body of water

Down

1. National Anthem written in Maryland
2. Author of "The Jungle"
3. United States capital 1783-1784
5. State flower
7. August 8, 1981 he took a dip in the National Aquarium seal tank
8. Three time World Series Championship team (1966, 1970 and 1983)
9. Publisher of "The North Star"
11. Hall of Fame MLB manager and a one time World Series Champion (1970).

Answers to puzzle will be posted on our website the week of January 13th.

An Election Christmas Carol (to the tune of "Good King Wenceslas")

Our Di-rec-tor Keene observed, work to do a-plenty,
As the staff ran round about, trying to get ready;
Looming was the e-lec-tion, tho' some said, "It's too soon,
Can't we wait to get it done? Having our nails done at noon."

Absentees, Provisionals, Epollbooks and Touchscreens,
O.S. units, and then there's Ballot-on-Demand machines,
Forms, supplies, and signs and such all need to be pack-ed
There are no man-i-cures allowed, that is what the Head said.

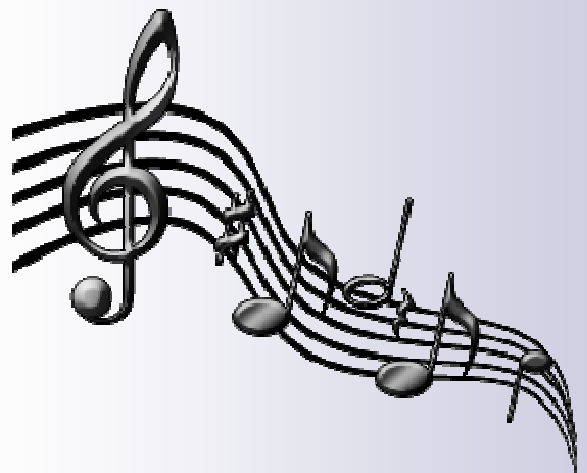
So they packed and organized, made their plans and then some,
Judges training, strategize, don't rest til we get done;
It's a team, leave none behind, look out for each other,
When it comes to 'Git 'er Done', we help one another.

Everyone pitched in and soon, everything was ready,
No one faltered, or complained, tempers were all steady;
This is what we work hard for, success in our e-lec-tions,
Always looking to improve, striving for per-fec-tion.

Hey, I think he looks so proud, I think we did real good,
Kept the media informed, Tweeted so that we could;
Now it's over what a day, get ready for the next one,
E-lec-tions it's what we do, we are second to-oo none.

Dale E. Livingston

(inspired by our incredible Election Office team)



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